Progress of Central projects running behind schedule

833. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Sector Projects which are costing Rs. 20 crore and above and running behind schedule;

(b) the salient features of those projects and the progress made as on date;

(c) the reasons for the cost overrun of those projects;

(d) the percentage of cost overun of those projects; and

(e) the remedial action initiated by Government to avoid the delay in implementing those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) As on June, 1994, out of 369 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above on the monitor of the Department of Programme Implentation. 188 were running behind schedule with respect to their latest approved dates of commissioning.

(b) The salient features and progress made as on 6/94 by these projects can be seen in the 'Project Implementation Status' Report on Central Sector Projects for the quarter ending June, 1994, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The main reasons for cost overrun in these projects interalia include; approval of cost at fixed prices without taking into consideration the general escalation in prices. change in statutory duties & taxes, devaluation of rupee against foreign currencies, change in scope of the project, delay in implementation etc.

(d) The cost of these 188 projects has gone up from the latest approved cost of Rs. 59226 crores to Rs. 82015 crores i.e. by 38.4%.

(e) The remedial action initiated in general to avoid delay is Implementation are:

(i) Intensive monitoring of project by the project authorities and the Department of Programme Implementation through Monthly/Quarterly Monitoring System.

(ii) Indepth periodical review of progress by Administrative Ministries and constant pressure on the project authorities for expeditious complection.

(iii) Setting up of Task Force/ Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

(iv) Close follow up by concerned Ministries and projects authorities with the State Governments, Equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

(v) Inter-ministerial coordination and interaction.

(vi) Emphasis on preparation of realistic project implementation plan and estimates.

(vii) Periodic review by Committee of Secretaries on a specific projects.

(viii) Timely approval of revised cost estimate and fund the gap with increased budgetary support, internal resources and extrabudgetary resources.